

N E W S       R E L E A S E  
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**WARNER, CLINTON, HINCHEY INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN  
LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM**

***Program Will Link Historic Sites To Commemorate 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Of The American Revolution***

**Washington, DC** - Senator John W. Warner (R-VA), Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-22-NY) today announced that they had introduced bipartisan legislation into the Senate and the House to establish the American Revolution Commemorative Program within the National Park Service to promote national celebration of the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution. The *225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act* mirrors legislation introduced by Senator Clinton and Congressman Hinchey in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. Representatives Sherwood Boehlert (R-24-NY), Jo Ann Davis (R-01-VA), Michael McNulty (D-21-NY) and Richard Neal (D-02-MA) are original cosponsors of the House bill.

"The Revolutionary War was the seminal event in the formation of the world's greatest democratic republic. Virginia is home to Yorktown Battlefield, site of the final, major conflict of this war, and the place where America finally gained true independence," Senator Warner said. "As we commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Revolution, I'm proud of the role that Virginians played in making us free."

"Some of the most significant Revolutionary War sites in the nation are right here in New York - in the Mohawk, Hudson and Champlain Valleys. There is no other place that can claim to have started and built America. In the spirit of the values that we are fighting for today - the values of freedom and hope - we need to commemorate the battles that were fought and won in the Mohawk, Hudson and Champlain Valleys," Senator Clinton said "The American Revolution Commemoration Program will link historic sites, structures, routes, activities, community projects, exhibits across New York and the nation into a program which will encourage Americans of all ages to not only visit New York but to revisit and celebrate our nation's history".

"The American Revolution was an event of global significance having a profound and lasting effect upon American government, laws, culture, society, and values," said Hinchey. "The years 2000 through 2008 mark the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Revolutionary War and present all Americans with an opportunity to help the American public remember the values our forebears cherished and the sacrifices they made for freedom against tyranny."

Specifically, the bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to be known as the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Program. The Commemoration Program would involve the participation of all National Parks Service (NPS) units and programs relevant to the American Revolution and well as other governmental and nongovernmental sites, facilities that are documented to be directly related to the American Revolution, and educational, research, and interpretive programs relating to the American Revolution.

The bill would allow NPS to link historic structures and sites, routes, activities, community projects, exhibits and multimedia materials; improve and update educational programs and connections with local and regional educators and expand the research base for Revolutionary War interpretation and education by seeking out and enhancing partnerships with scholars and educators. Specifically, the bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to:

- Produce and distribute to the public educational materials relating to the American Revolution, such as handbooks, maps, and interpretive guides;
- Provide technical assistance to other Federal agencies, States, local governments, private entities and partner with the governments of the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Spain, and Canada;
- Assist in the protection of resources associated with the American Revolution;
- Enhance communications, connections, and collaboration among the National Park Service (NPS) units and programs relating to the American Revolution;
- Expand the research base for interpretation of and education on the American Revolution; and
- Adopt an official symbol or device for the theme "Lighting Freedom's Flame: American Revolution, 225th Anniversary.

The National Park Service (NPS) administers battlefields, historical parks, and programs related to the Revolutionary War. However, due to a lack of resources, NPS faces many challenges administering these sites and programs. The legislation will authorize \$500,000 a year through fiscal year 2009 to assist NPS in improving their stewardship of Revolutionary War sites and treasures through improved interpretation, education, outreach and protection.

Among the NPS sites in New York that the legislation seeks to help is the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, which was established in 1996 by legislation introduced by Hinchey. The region's role in the American Revolution is one of the primary focuses of the Heritage Area. The bill would also help focus attention on a number of Revolutionary War sites in and around the Mohawk Valley, including Saratoga National Historical Park and the Fort Stanwix National Monument.

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